

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 22, 2013

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As you know, Title III of the Higher Education Act authorizes funding for enhancing and strengthening HBCUs, HBCU Graduate Programs and also provides funding for the HBCU Capital Financing Program. I write to you today to request your strong support of funding for the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) across the country in your Fiscal Year 2014 budget proposal and offer my cooperation in working to ensure that these institutions are engines of innovation and success for all those seeking a higher education.

Following the passage of the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964, Congress in 1965 created distinct federal support for HBCUs, which in the face of legally sanctioned discrimination had worked to raise educational outcomes for African-Americans. For more than 150 years, our nation's 105 Historically Black Colleges and Universities have served as the foundation of educational attainment and economic opportunity within the African-American community. I believe that the prosperity of these institutions is intricately connected to your call to lead the world in the proportion of college graduates by 2020.

My home state of North Carolina is fortunate to be the home of 10 HBCUs, each with a strong history and legacy of serving students across the state. Even though HBCUs represent fewer than three percent of all colleges and universities in the nation, they enroll and graduate a disproportionate percentage of African-American students. This impressive group includes half of our nation's African-American public school teachers and 70 percent of African-American dentists. Additionally, HBCUs graduate over 50 percent of African American professionals. Equally impressive is the fact that HBCUs award more than one-third of the degrees held by African Americans in mathematics and one in three of the degrees held by African Americans in natural sciences.

I appreciate your commitment to the historic role that HBCUs play across our country, and I am proud to see that commitment demonstrated through your signing of Executive Order 13532 - Promoting Excellence, Innovation and Sustainability at Historically Black Colleges and Universities. I ask that you continue to build upon the principles highlighted in your Executive Order by providing the funding necessary for the success of these

intuitions. A strategic investment in our HBCUs is an investment in our nation's future. I look forward to working with you in the 113th Congress to make this a reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Kay R. Hagan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Kay R. Hagan
U.S. Senator